



Catholic Diocese of Darwin

Management of Person of Risk Policy

Purpose

The Catholic Diocese of Darwin is committed to promoting the safeguarding of all children, young people and vulnerable adults. Consistent with gospel values and our Mission Statement, we follow the example of Jesus in respecting the dignity of each child, young person and vulnerable adult. We are committed to work together to create an environment where children and young people are respected and where they are safe and feel safe.

Scope

This policy applies to all parishes and ministries associated with the Catholic Diocese of Darwin. It does not include Catholic Education Northern Territory.

Definitions

Persons may be identified as posing a risk, for example:

- where there are significant concerns, allegations or conviction which indicate a possible risk of harm to others;
- when a convicted sex offender or violent prisoner is released and intends to attend parish activities or ministries;
- where members of the clergy or religious have been temporarily withdrawn from ministry pending conclusion of enquiries of a safeguarding matter;
- where, post enquiry concerns remain about a member of clergy but not such that they should be dismissed; or
- where an individual is subject to any current investigation or assessment of risk for a safeguarding matter.

Policy

Where a person has been identified as posing a risk, an Agreement for participating in parish activities will be developed. This must be informed by a process of identifying risks or potential risks. The following are guidelines for developing the Agreement:

- Name and contact details of the support person elected by the individual. (The support person needs to know about the individual's history / situation).
- Details of participation in mass – for example a particular seating area, with a particular support person, at a particular time.
- Details of participation in parish activities or ministries where no children or young people are present.
- Details of participation in parish activities or ministries where children and young people are present.
- Actions to be taken if children or young people approach the individual.
- Names of persons who will be informed of the Agreement.
- Details of actions for breach of the Agreement.
- Details of storing the Agreement, e.g. length of time, location.
- Details of review, e.g. every six months or when additional information is received and needs to be considered.

Where parole conditions prohibit the individual attending ministries or activities where children are present, or where the risk analysis is determined to be high, the Agreement is to include considerations and details of pastoral care.

Responsibility

The Bishop, Vicar-General, and the Integrity Officer/Child Safety Coordinator will be informed of the person of risk and support the Parish Priest/ Administrator or Manager. Where applicable, diocesan personnel may also work closely with the Police/Probation Officer.

The SA& NT Professional Standards Office will be informed of the person of risk where it relates to historical abuse.

The Parish Priest will develop the Agreement with the person identified as posing a risk.

All persons must keep all information confidential and secure in locked cabinets.

References

Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Registration) Act 2004.

Care and Protection of Children Act (NT)

Catholic Diocese of Darwin Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Prevention and Protection Policy

Catholic Diocese of Darwin Risk Management Strategy